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Observing American Education Week

By Rep. Considine (D-Baraboo)



Dave Considine represents the 81st District in the State Assembly. The 81st District includes Baraboo, Sauk City, Prairie du Sac, Portage, and many other communities. His office can be reached at (608) 266-7746 or via email at Rep.Considine@legis.wisconsin.gov

As the 2023-24 Legislative Session approaches, we must continue to advocate for sustained, meaningful investments in public education. For a decade, the state divested in our schools and expanded programs that channel taxpayer dollars to private schools. These programs are called “parental choice programs” and are designed to take money away from our public schools. This year, I sent out a survey to my constituents and 81.8% of respondents agree that our state taxes should not be used to fund private schools.

All state education funding should instead go to public schools where the majority of our low-income and disadvantaged children are educated. I believe that we must spend the limited funding designated to education where it will have the maximum impact on Wisconsin students, which is in our public schools. Instead, each year more funding goes towards the parental choice programs, reducing general state aid to school districts around the state. Days after the general election the Wisconsin Assembly Speaker stated that he would increase state education funding if Governor Evers agreed to expand school choice programs. The Speaker continues to tie school funding to choice programs, as he has done year after year. It is clear that the Speaker has no intention of making a real investment in our public schools.

I am encouraged that Wisconsin will continue to be under the leadership of Governor Evers, who has always made public schools a priority. In the last 4 years, there has been an increased investment in education. Since Governor Evers took office, Wisconsin’s education ranking has gone from 18th to 8th in the nation. When our public schools are funded fairly, our students are better off. Additionally, more aid from the state means that communities are not forced to increase property taxes.

As we begin conversations about the next state budget, I will continue to prioritize our public schools. An investment in our kids is an investment in the future of our state. Let’s continue to improve education outcomes by giving schools the tools they need.